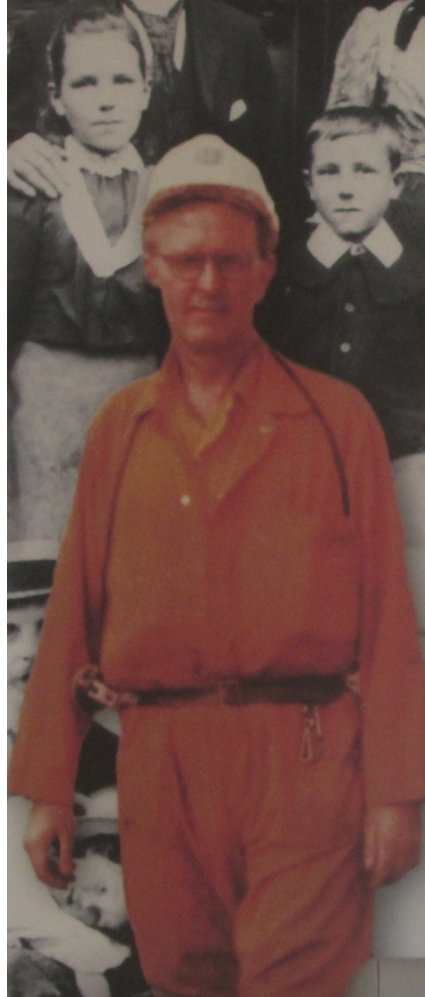


John Davies A Memoir



From Minor



To Miner



To Memoir

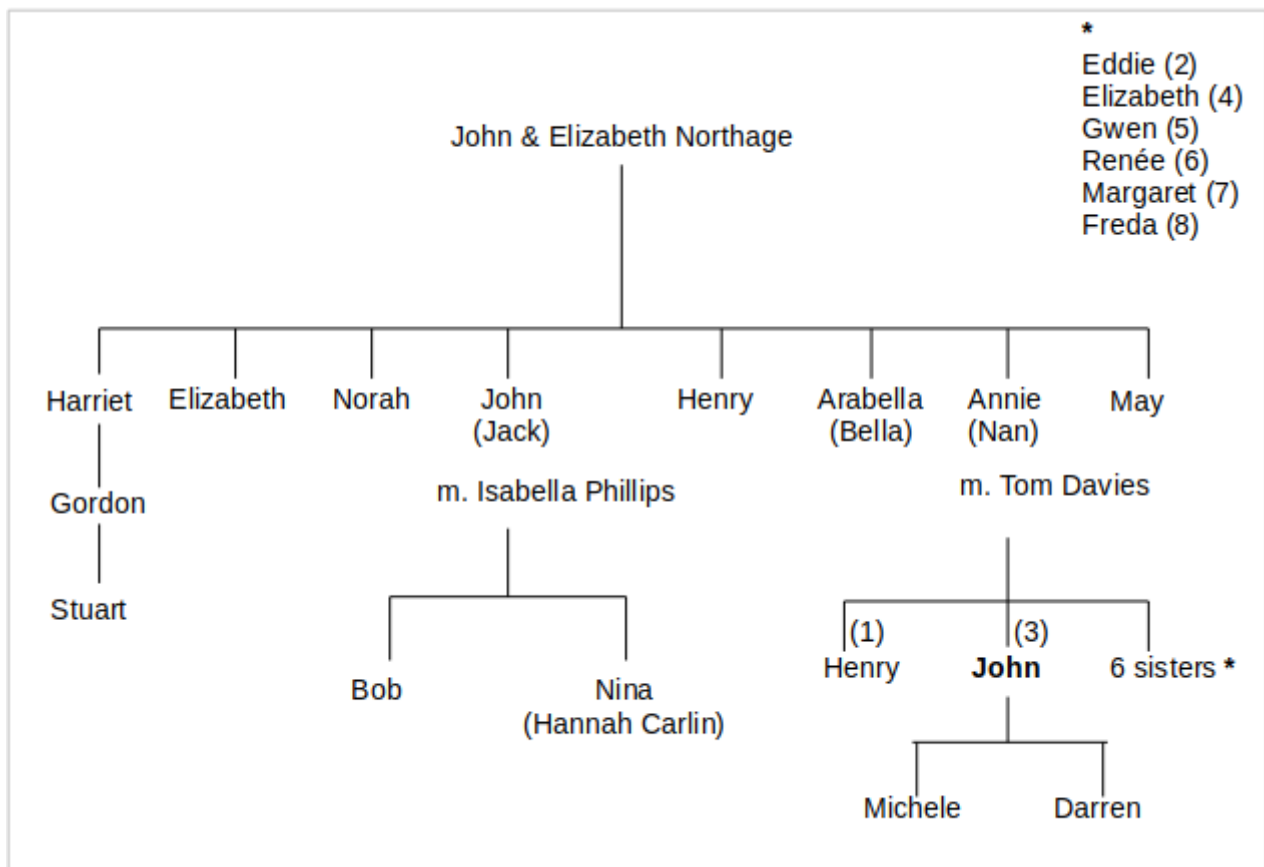
Family Connections

I was born in 1934 to Thomas (Tom) & Annie Davis of 20 Park Road, Bestwood Village in Nottinghamshire. I was the third child of what would be a family of eight, although my younger sister, Margaret, died in infancy. I went to the local school, was a choir boy at the local church and became a boy scout in the local troop. When I left school I spent my early career in the Merchant Navy travelling the world – more of that later.

When I married Jean in 1957 I settled down in Hucknall to raise a family. I took a job at Bestwood Colliery as a Trainee Underground Worker and was employed there until the pit closed in 1967. I was then moved to Linby Colliery as an Official and stayed there until I retired in 1987, by which time I was a Colliery Overman. You can see the image of me in my orange pit overalls and miner's helmet from this front cover displayed on the wall of the Dynamo House at Bestwood Colliery.

My mother, Annie, was one of the 8 surviving children born to John and Elizabeth Northage; 2 boys and 6 girls.

In this summarised family tree I am highlighted in bold.



My mother's family had moved from Arnold to Bestwood Village around 1900, and had lived in one of the pit houses known then as 23 Colliery Cottages – now 12 The Square. Her father, John, and her two brothers, John (known as Jack) and Henry, all worked at Bestwood Colliery. My elder brother, Henry, followed in their footsteps and went straight from school to work at Bestwood Colliery as an Electrician. You could say it was a family tradition to work there.

I'd like to tell you a little more about my two uncles, Jack and Henry, who both fought in the Great War before returning, via very different paths, to work back at Bestwood Colliery.